Vultures in the country

†657. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the recent report of wildlife international which has revealed that there has been a fall of 99.9 per cent in the number of vultures over the last sixteen years;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to protect this endangered animal;

(c) the total number of vultures in the country and names of places, where they are found; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Union Government is aware of steep decline in the population of vultures as reported by Bird Life International. This report is based on the surveys carried out by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). Union Government playing a proactive role has banned the veterinary use of drug "dicolfenac" which reportedly is the major cause of the vulture mortality. A 'Vulture Action Plan' for recovery of vulture population has been prepared in consultation with all the stakeholders. In addition to existing vulture breeding centres at Pinjore (Haryana), Rajabhatkhawa (West Bengal) and Rani (Assam), the Ministry through Central Zoo Authority has facilitated establishment of four rescue/breeding centres in zoos at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Junagarh (Gujarat) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Based on the survey and monitoring conducted by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and others estimated populations of critically endangered species comprising of about 1000 slender-billed, 11000 white-backed and 44000 long-billed vultures have been reported. Breeding populations of vultures have been reported from the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam.

Forest Academy

658. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra submitted any project proposal for establishing a "Forest Academy" in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith expected cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal for establishing a "Forest Academy" in the State.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.